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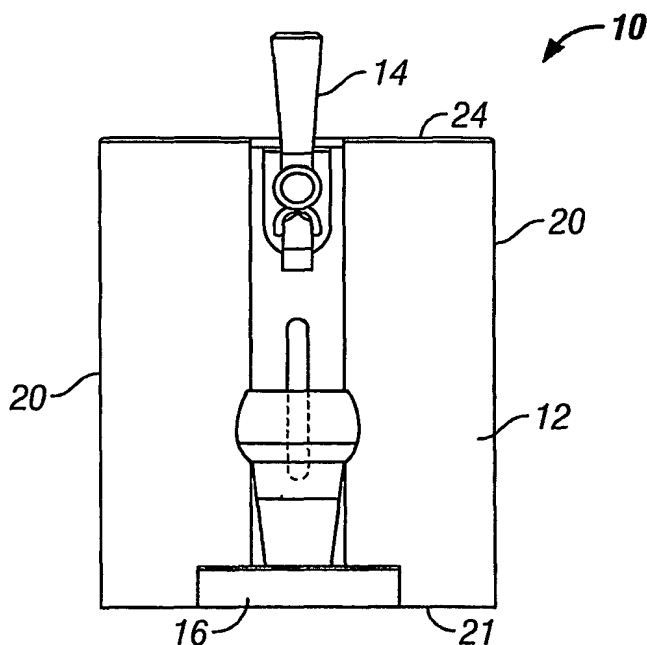
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(54) Title: **ALCOHOL BEVERAGE DISPENSING APPARATUS**



(57) Abstract: A cooling system for a home beer dispensing apparatus has a mediated thermal bridge providing a bank of latent cooling capacity. The bridge may have a cavity filled with a cooling solution with at least one series of spaced apart heat exchange fins extending substantially along and interstitially into the cavity from at least one wall of the cavity so as to enhance heat transfer across the cavity. The bridge is arranged in thermal conducting relation through a cooling plate between a keg containing the beer and a Peltier thermoelectric cooling device adapted to cool the cooling solution by extracting heat therefrom to an active heat sink. A fan directs air flow horizontally along the fins of the sink and out the two lateral open sides of the heat sink. This prevents heat from rising in the apparatus and thereby affecting other system component parts. The cooling solution may comprise 5% by volume glycol and freezes at a temperature below that of water providing an improved thermal bank. The cooling plate has an electrical resistance heater mounted therein to maintain the temperature of beer in the keg adjacent a bottom portion thereof above the freezing temperature of the beer. The cooling system is economical in its space requirements and enhances the chilling of the beer to a desired serving temperature. The invention also provides a beer keg for such systems.